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Message Text

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64
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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 296475

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, XH

SUBJECT: NAC: EXPERTS' REPORT ON SOVIET UNION
-- AND EASTERN EUROPE

REFS: (A) USNATO 6485; (B) 6860

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. SINCE MINISTERIAL IS ALREADY PAST, WE ASSUME THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PLACED ON NAC AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 17 AS PRO FORMA MEANS OF CLEARING RECORD. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WOULD NOT INSIST ON CHANGING TEXT AT THIS POINT, PROVIDED IT IS MADE CLEAR THAT US CONCURS IN REPORT ONLY AS OF DRAFTING DATE.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO CIRCULATE TO ALLIED DELS THE FOLLOWING INR SUGGESTIONS FOR UPDATING AND CORRECTING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REPORT, KEYED TO REF A.

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PARA 2. SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING FOR ALL OF PARA 2.

BEGIN QUOTE: ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE DECEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM THAT BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN WILL BE THE MAIN SPEAKERS AT THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS DUE IN FEBRUARY IMPLIES THAT BOTH WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE AT LEAST THROUGH THE CONGRESS. IT FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT DRASTIC POLICY SHIFTS ARE NOT IN THE OFFING. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, A MOOD OF SOMEWHAT GREATER CAUTION NOW SEEMS TO PERMEATE THE LEADERSHIP. DRAFT DIRECTIVES FOR THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN SHOW AN INTENTION TO CUT THE PLANNED RATE OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH TO 35-39 PERCENT, VERSUS THE 47 PERCENT ORIGINALLY TARGETED FOR THE FIVE YEARS JUST CONCLUDING. THE TARGET FOR 1976 IS 4.3 PERCENT (7.5 PERCENT WAS ACHIEVED IN 1975). FURTHERMORE, WHILE THIS YEAR'S HARVEST DISASTER CAN ONLY HAVE EXACERBATED THE PERENNIAL ARGUMENTS OVER RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES, 172 BILLION RUBLES ARE EARMARKED FOR INVESTMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, UP FROM THE 131 BILLION RUBLES SPENT IN 1971-75. END QUOTE.

PARA 10. SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD READ "OVERALL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, HOWEVER, WAS AFFECTED BY THE GRAIN DISASTER." FURTHER, SUBSTITUTE "MAY HAVE BEEN AS LOW AS 135-140 MILLION " TONS FOR "IS THOUGHT TO BE LESS THAN 160." IN FOLLOWING SENTENCE, CHANGE 50 TO 78 AND 35 TO ALMOST 60.

PARA 11. LAST SENTENCE: STRIKE THE WORD "SOME"; SUBSTITUTE "CAN BE EXPECTED TO" FOR "MAY."

PARA 13. CHANGE THREE BILLION DOLLARS TO FIVE BILLION DOLLARS.

PARA 15. FIRST SENTENCE: STRIKE PHRASE "PREFERA0LY BEFORE THE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS."

PARA 17. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR ALL OF PARA 17.
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BEGIN QUOTE: WHILE SOME PROGRESS EVIDENTLY HAD BEEN MADE AT THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, THE EDITORIAL COMMISSION SESSION IN DECEMBER BROKE UP IN DISAGREEMENT. ANOTHER MEETING IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY, BUT RESOLUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES BEFORE THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS NOW SEEMS DOUBTFUL. END QUOTE.

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PARA 43. STRIKE WORDS "PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO BELGRADE."

PARA 44. STRIKE CLAUSE "AND THERE IS INCREASED SUBORDINATION OF THE ARMY TO THE PARTY."

PARA 45. SUBSTITUTE FOR SECOND SENTENCE: "DATA FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1975 SUGGEST THAT THERE WILL BE A SMALLER DEFICIT ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS THAN LAST YEAR."

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